

Statement of John Conyers, Jr.
HONORING STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATORS
WHO HAVE CHAMPIONED THE EXAMINATION OF
REPARATIONS
June 16, 2004

Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 40, The Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act, I am proud to acknowledge those state and local legislators who have had the courage and the foresight to champion local legislation in support of reparations and the passage of federal legislation.

Since its introduction in 1989, H.R. 40 has sought to focus national attention on the issue of compensation for slavery and post-slavery discrimination. Through the efforts of grassroots activists, reparations has grown to become a topic of discussion and debate on numerous national television and radio programs, in the halls of Ivy League institutions, in corporate boardrooms and courtrooms, and within increasing numbers of state and local legislative assemblies. Twenty four local municipalities across this country and three states have adopted legislation supporting the concept of reparations and/or the passage of HR 40.

On the auspicious occasion of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America's first Gala Reparations Banquet, June 17, 2004, I recognize the work of the many organizations actively engaged in making HR 40 a reality, and I hereby pay tribute to the following state and local champions of justice who have introduced reparations-related legislation in their respective jurisdictions:

California Legislature: Mr. Kevin Murray

Florida Legislature

Louisiana House of Representatives: Mr. Raymond Jetson; Mr. Melvin

“Kip” Holden; Mr. Joseph Delpit

Maryland (pending): Mr. Nathaniel Exum

Massachusetts: Mr. William Owens

New York Legislature (pending): Mr. Roger Green

Texas Legislature (pending)
Alameda County, California: Mr. Keith Carson.
Berkeley, California: Ms. Maudelle Shirek
Compton, California: Ms. Yvonne Arceneaux
Foster City, California: Ms. Marie Davis
Inglewood California: Mr. Daniel Tabor
Los Angeles, California: Mr. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mr. Nate Holden
Oakland, California: Mr. Larry Reid
East Palo Alto, California: Mr. Omowale Satterwhite
San Francisco, California
District of Columbia: Mrs. Wilhelmina Rolark, 1991
Atlanta, Georgia: Mr. Clarence T. Martin, Ms. “Able” Mabel Thomas
Chicago, Illinois: Alderman Dorothy Tillman, 2000
Evanston, Illinois
Baltimore, Maryland: Ms. Bea Gaddy, 2000
Detroit, Michigan
Jackson, Mississippi: Mr. Terry Kennedy
St. Louis, Missouri: Mr. Terry Kennedy, 1999
Camden, New Jersey
Passaic County, New Jersey: Ms. Marilee Jackson, 2002
Paterson, New Jersey: Ms. Georgia Scott, 2001
Newark, New Jersey
Cleveland, Ohio: Ms. Fannie Lewis
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Mr. Michael Nutter
Dallas, Texas: Mr. John Wiley; Mr. Al Lipscomb
Ft. Worth, Texas: Mr. Frank Moss
Burlington, Vermont: Mr. Richard T. Kemp